

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ATHENS 08230 071224Z
ACTION EUR-08

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S E C R E T ATHENS 8230

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, MASS, GR, TU, US
SUBJ: U.S.-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT: SIGNATURE

REF: STATE 205634 (DTG 271613Z AUG 77) (NOTAL)

1. DURING MEETING WITH POL/MIL OFFICER ON AUGUST 31 TO REVIEW
VARIOUS DCA-RELATED TOPICS (SEPTELS) (NOTAL), MFA LEGAL ADVISER
MACHERITSAS SUMMARIZED HIS RECENT DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON ON
HANDLING OF DCA (REFTEL) AND HOW HE HAD REPORTED THEM TO HIS
SUPERIORS. MAIN POINTS FOLLOW.

2. TIMING BETWEEN SIGNATURE AND SUBMISSION TO LEGISLATURE:
MACHERITSAS CONFIRMED THAT GOG WANTED LEGISLATIVE CONSIDERATION
TO OCCUR ROUGHLY AT THE SAME TIME IN BOTH COUNTRIES, ALTHOUGH
HE INDICATED HE THOUGHT U.S. CONGRESSIONAL ACTION WOULD PROBABLY
TAKE LONGER THAN THE APPROVAL PROCESS IN GREEK PARLIAMENT. HE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ATHENS 08230 071224Z

CLARIFIED THAT NO GREEK LAW REQUIRES IMMEDIATE SUBMISSION TO PARLI-
AMENT AFTER SIGNATURE. RATHER, EVEN THOUGH GOG COULD SIGN AND
HOLD THE DCA, IT IS POLITICALLY PREFERABLE TO SUBMIT IT PROMPTLY
"SO AS NOT TO CREATE SUSPICIONS" DOMESTICALLY.

3. PARLIAMENTARY CONSIDERATION: UNDER GREEK CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE
72, THE DCA MUST BE SUBMITTED TO A FULL SESSION OF PARLIAMENT (THE

NEXT ONE BEGINS OCTOBER 4)) AND NOT TO THE SUMMER RECESS SECTION NOW SITTING. THE GOVERNMENT MAY SEEK PRIORITY CONSIDERATION UNDER ARTICLE 76. MACHERITSAS ADMITTED THAT HE MIS-SPOKE IN WASHINGTON CONCERNING THE VOTE REQUIRED: ARTICLE 27 CALLS FOR AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS TO PASS A LAW ACCEPTING FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES ON GREEK TERRITORY, NOT A TWO-THIRD'S MAJORITY. (COMMENT: GIVEN THE GOVERNING PARTY'S CUSHION OF 64 MEMBERS OVER THE 151 REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE, RATIFICATION SEEMS CERTAIN. END) WHEN VOTED, A LAW MUST THEN BE SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT AND GAZETTED WITHIN ONE MONTH. PARLIAMENT WILL ALSO BE SIMULTANEOUSLY CONSIDERING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTER-DEPARTMENTAL AGENCY WHICH, HE SAID, WOULD SERVE AS THE SINGLE GOG POINT OF CONTACT FOR DCA IMPLEMENTATION.

4. CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION: WHEN QUERIED, MACHERITSAS SAID HE LEFT WASHINGTON WITH THE FOLLOWING IMPRESSIONS, WHICH HE CLAIMS HE HAS REPORTED TO HIS SUPERIORS: THE USG IS ANXIOUS TO SIGN THE DCA BUT OTHER FACTORS SUCH AS CONSIDERATION OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES MIGHT DICTATE A PAUSE THIS FALL, AFTER DCA SIGNATURE, BEFORE URGING CONGRESS TO CONSIDER IT. IN SUCH A CASE, THE DECEMBER-JANUARY PERIOD WAS CONTEMPLATED. THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD SUBMIT THE GREEK DCA INDEPENDENTLY OF THE TURKISH DCA AND WOULD NOT SUGGEST THAT THE TWO DCA'S BE CONSIDERED TOGETHER. ONCE BOTH DCA'S ARE SIGNED AND SUBMITTED, CONGRESS COULD SIMPLY CHOOSE TO TAKE AND EXAMINE THE GREEK DCA FIRST, AND LEAVE THE TURKISH DCA PENDING. IF CONGRESS ACTS TO CONSIDER THEM TOGETHER, THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD
SECRET

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PAGE 03 ATHENS 08230 071224Z

ARGUE AGAINST IT. (COMMENT: AS NOTED, THE ABOVE REPRESENTS MACHERITSAS' IMPRESSIONS FROM HIS RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON. WE CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN WITH THE GREEKS, AND DID SO WITH MACHERITSAS, THAT NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE ON STRATEGY, TIMING, OR MECHANICS FOR HANDLING EITHER DCA, PER STATE 177699 DTG 290001Z JUL 77, NOTAL.)

5. MACHERITSAS SAID HE HAD ALSO RELAYED TO HIS SUPERIORS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT TIMING OF SIGNATURE AND CONGRESSIONAL HANDLING WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED FURTHER, PERHAPS IN MID-SEPTEMBER IN CONNECTION WITH PREPARATIONS FOR THE VANCE-BITSIOS MEETING AT THE UN LATER IN THE MONTH. IN THAT CONTEXT, HE GAVE HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE "SCHAUFLE AFFAIR," TO BE DISCUSSED BY THE SECRETARY AND THE FONMIN, WOULD INFLUENCE THE READINESS OF THE GOG FOR AN EARLY SIGNING OF THE DCA.
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